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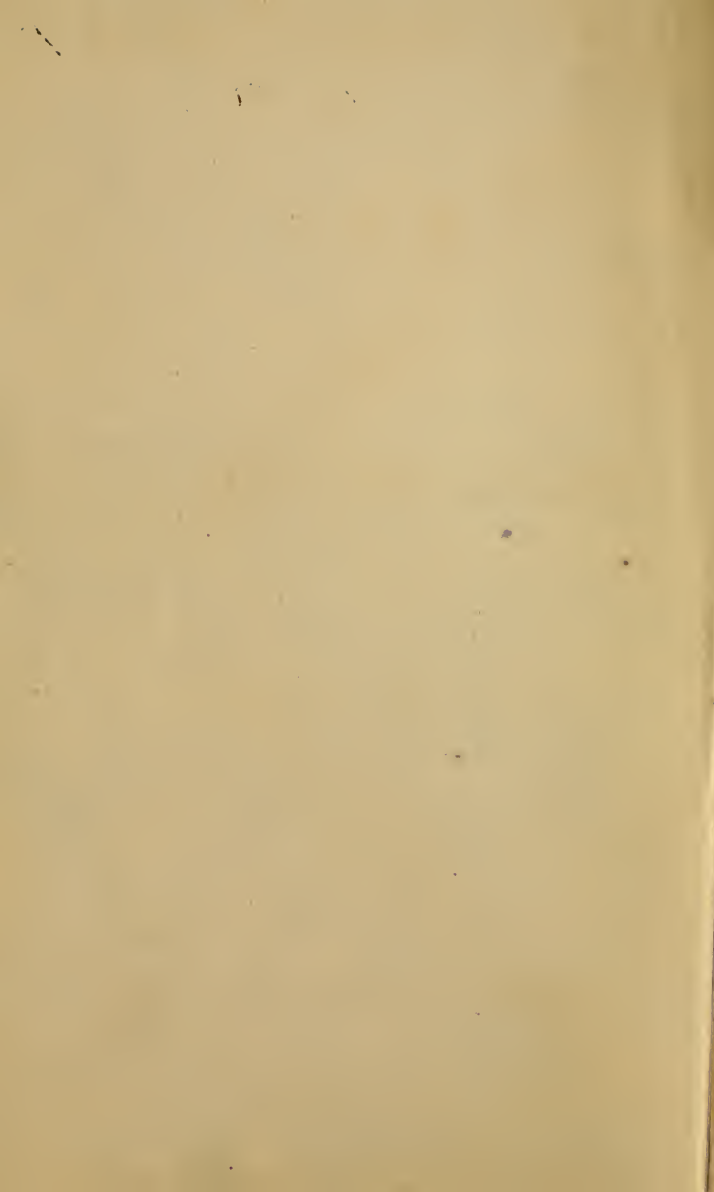
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BY

GEORGE PALMER.

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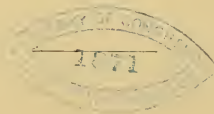
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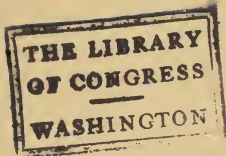
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# Key to the Monument.





## The Britons.



HE Ancient Britons were a brave and hardy people, resembling in their nature, habits and customs, the North American Indians. They lived in huts, were clothed with the skins of beasts, and subsisted principally by hunting, fishing and plunder. Their government was in form Monarchical. Their religion was Druidical, and their priests exercised an extensive civil and military jurisdiction.

## The Romans.



**B**C. 55, the Romans under Julius Cæsar, invaded the island, expecting undoubtedly an easy conquest. But the Britons fought so bravely that he accepted proposals for peace and went away. He returned the next year with a larger army, and after several desperate battles, terms of peace were again agreed upon, and Cæsar a second time withdrew with his ships and men. The Britons were now left to themselves for nearly a century, during which time there was peace in Britain.

A. D. 43, the emperor Claudius, with an army of fifty thousand men, made another attempt to subdue the Britons. The Britons as before fought desperately, and under the lead of the brave Caractacus, continued the conflict with varied success for many years, when Caractacus was taken prisoner and carried to Rome. But so great respect had the emperor for his



bravery and patriotism, that Caractacus was soon restored to freedom.

But the Britons were not yet subdued. They rose, again and again, against the Roman invaders.

A. D. 61, Suetonius, another Roman General, landed on the island of Anglesey, and destroyed the sacred altars of the Druids. This, together with the cruel treatment received by their queen, Boadicea, aroused the Britons to swift revenge. Boadicea, at the head of an army, gained a splendid victory over the Romans, in which over seventy thousand Roman soldiers were slain. The Britons were however soon after vanquished with great slaughter, and Boadicea destroyed herself by poison. Still the spirit of the Britons was unbroken. And when Suetonius left the country, they fell upon his troops, routed them, and retook the island of Anglesey.

A. D. 78, the Romans under Julius Agricola, took possession of the country for a third time, and extended their conquests northward into Scotland. The natives bravely disputed every inch of ground, and many bloody battles were fought, in which vast numbers on both sides were slain.

A. D. 108, the Romans under the emperor Adrian,

again invaded the island, but met with the same obstinate resistance from the native islanders.

A. D. 200, the Roman emperor Severus, made another attempt to subdue this hardy people. But they worried, hunted and scattered his army like dogs ; and it was not till Caracalla, son of Severus, entered upon the work, that the Romans made any substantial progress in bringing the Britons to terms. Caracalla pursued a far wiser course than that of his predecessors. He knew that arms alone, could never subdue that brave and determined people ; and by yielding a quantity of land, and granting them the same privileges which the Romans possessed, he secured a meritorious peace, which remained unbroken for seventy years.

The Romans remained masters of England for nearly four centuries, or until about the period of the decline of the Roman Empire ; when the civil wars at home demanded the recall of the Roman armies, and the Romans bade a final adieu to England.

## The Saxons.



**N**O sooner were the Roman armies withdrawn from the island, than new enemies assailed the Britons. The Picts and Scots from the north, poured down upon them, and they were compelled to appeal to Rome for assistance. But the Romans had all that they could attend to at home. The Britons then invited to their assistance, the Saxons, who were a warlike people in the north of Germany. The Saxons accepted the invitation of the Britons, assisted them to drive back the Picts and Scots, and then formed an alliance with the Picts and Scots, to take possession of the country they had come to deliver.

A. D. 449, Hengist and Horsa, two chieftain brothers, landed upon the island, took possession of a portion of territory now known as the County of Kent, and A. D. 451, established the kingdom of Kent; the first Saxon kingdom on the island.

Other Saxon generals followed, and assisted by some other of the German tribes, the Angles and the Jutes, advanced their conquests, until in time seven Saxon kingdoms were formed on the island, which were called the Saxon Heptarchy.

These kingdoms, with the dates of their beginning, were as follows, as seen by the steps to the monument :

The kingdom of Kent was founded by Hengist,  
A. D. 451.

The kingdom of South Saxony was founded by  
Ella, A. D. 490.

The Kingdom of West Saxony was founded by  
Cedric, A. D. 519.

The kingdom of East Saxony was founded by  
Ercenwin, A. D. 527.

The kingdom of Northumbria was founded by  
Ida, A. D. 547.

The kingdom of East Anglia was founded by  
Uffa, A. D. 575.

The kingdom of Mercia was founded by Cridda,  
A. D. 582.

The Britons falling back before their Saxon conquerors, retired into Wales and Cornwall, which two counties remained independent and unconquered

until the reign of Edward I, in the thirteenth century.

The Saxons made common cause against the Britons, until, their common purpose accomplished, they commenced quarrelling among themselves, and in the year 827, they were all conquered and united under Egbert, king of Wessex, or West Saxony. It was by this king's order that all that portion of the island that had been settled by the Angles and Saxons or Anglo-Saxons, should ever after be called Angle-land, which has since been contracted to England.

The history of the kingdoms of the Saxon Heptarchy is confused, unreliable and of little interest. The only important and memorable fact in connection with their time is the introduction of Christianity among the English Saxons, by Augustine, a monk who preached the christian religion in the kingdom of Kent, about the year 600, and soon made a convert of king Ethelbert. From that time it spread rapidly over the island.

## Saxon Monarchs.



### *EGBERT.*

**E**GBERT reigned as king thirty-seven years, viz: twenty years as king of Wessex only; seven years as king or chief of the seven kingdoms; and ten years as king of all England. He died A. D. 838, and was succeeded by his son,

### *ETHELWOLF.*

Ethelwolf died A. D. 857, leaving four sons, Ethelbald, Ethelbert, Ethelred and Alfred. By his will he divided the kingdom between his two sons,

### *ETHELBALD AND ETHELBERT.*

Ethelbald died A. D. 860, and Ethelbert reigned alone till his death A. D. 866. He was succeeded by his brother,

*ETHELRED I.*

Ethelred died A. D. 871, and was succeeded by his younger brother,

*ALFRED, (The Great.)*

Alfred, youngest son of Ethelwolf, died A. D. 901, and was succeeded by his son,

*EDWARD, (The Elder.)*

Edward died A. D. 925, and was succeeded by his natural son,

*ATHELSTAN.*

Athelstan died A. D. 941, and was succeeded by the legitimate son of Edward the Elder,

*EDMUND.*

Edmund died A. D. 946, and was succeeded by his brother,

*EDRED.*

Edred died A. D. 955, and was succeeded by his nephew,

*EDWY.*

Edwy died A. D. 959, and was succeeded by his younger brother,

*EDGAR.*

Edgar died A. D. 975, and was succeeded by his son,

*EDWARD, (The Martyr.)*

Edward died A. D. 978, and was succeeded by his half brother,

*ETHELRED II.*

From the reign of Egbert till the time of Ethelred II, the Danes, who were a piratical people, had committed frequent and serious depredations upon the English; and during the reign of Ethelred II, Sweyn, king of Norway, taking advantage of the cruelty, treachery and cowardice of that monarch, ravaged the country with fire and sword, and succeeded in gaining the mastery over nearly the whole island. Ethelred fled to Normandy, and Sweyn was proclaimed king, A. D. 1013, and died A. D. 1014. His reign being so short, and perhaps his being never crowned, are the reasons why most historians have not ranked him among the kings of England. Upon the death of Sweyn, the Danes proclaimed his son, Canute, king of England. The English in the mean time recalled



Ethelred. The war between Canute and Ethelred continued until the death of the latter, A. D. 1016, when his son,

*EDMUND, (Ironside.)*

Was proclaimed king by the English. There is great confusion in English history in regard to the particulars of the war between Edmund and Canute. Many battles were fought with varied success, when it was finally agreed that the kingdom should be divided between the two monarchs ; Edmund taking all south of the Thames, with London and part of the ancient kingdom of Wessex ; and Canute, the remainder. Edmund died suddenly, A. D. 1017, and it is supposed that he was murdered.

With Edmund, the Saxon Monarchy in England in a manner, ended ; having lasted about one hundred and ninety years from Egbert's accession ; four hundred and thirty-two from the founding of the Heptarchy ; and five hundred and sixty-six from the arrival of Hengist.

## The Danish Monarchs.



### *CANUTE, (The Great.)*

**C**ANUTE, who, as we have seen, was in possession of half of England, upon Edmund's death, soon became master of the whole. He was crowned A. D. 1017, died A. D. 1036, and was succeeded by his son,

### *HAROLD.*

Harold died A. D. 1039, and was succeeded by his brother,

### *HARDICANUTE.*

Hardicanute ruled with extreme cruelty until his death, A. D. 1041. He was a glutton and a drunkard; and died in a drunken fit, at a wedding. For several centuries afterwards the English observed the anniversary of his death as a holiday,

With this king, expired the monarchy of the Danes in England, after it had lasted about twenty-six years ; but after they had harrassed the kingdom at intervals, for two hundred and forty years.



## Saxon Line Restored.



*EDWARD*, (The Confessor.)

**E**DWARD was the son of Etheldred II, and half brother of Edmund Ironside. He ascended the throne A. D. 1041. At this time Edward, son of Edmund Ironside, was in exile in Hungary, and by the rule of the succession, was rightful heir to the throne ; and Sweyn, son of Canute, was yet living in Norway. To avoid a renewal of hostilities between the English and Danes, it was arranged that Edward, the Confessor, who was the only prince then in England who had any claim to the throne, should be proclaimed. This result was owing in a great degree to the influence of Earl Godwin, a powerful nobleman, whose daughter Edward had married. Edward died A. D. 1065, and was the last king of Egbert's race. He was succeeded by

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*HAROLD II.*

Harold II, was a Saxon, but not of royal blood. He was the son of Earl Godwin ; and upon the death of Edward, usurped the crown, and was afterwards acknowledged and obeyed as king of England.

At this time Edgar Atheling, grandson of Edmund Ironside, by his son Edward, was the only person on whom, by the law of succession, the crown should have devolved. Harold had all the requisite qualities of a great prince and ruler. He was killed in the battle of Hastings, October 14th, A. D. 1066, after a reign of nine months and nine days, and with him ended the empire of the Anglo-Saxons, in England.

It is a singular fact that William, Duke of Normandy, in a single day, by this one fortunate battle, became master of England ; whereas all the former invaders, Romans, Saxons and Danes, conquered it as it were by inches.

## The Norman Family.



*WILLIAM I.* (Surnamed the Conqueror.)

**T**HE battle of Hastings was entirely decisive, and secured the crown of England to William, Duke of Normandy. This revolution was followed by a most remarkable change of laws, customs, manners and language. England from this time received a new race of kings, which either by the male or female line has continued to the present time. William ruled England in the most arbitrary manner until his death, A. D. 1087, when he was succeeded by his son,

*WILLIAM II.* (Surnamed Rufus.)

William II, ruled very much as his father had done, until his death, A. D. 1100. He was accidentally slain by an arrow, and was succeeded by his brother,

*HENRY I.* (Surnamed Beau Clerc.)

Henry died A. D. 1135, leaving a daughter,

Matilda, who married for her second husband Geoffrey Plantagenet. By the law of succession, Matilda was rightful heir to the throne, but,

*STEPHEN, (The Usurper,)*

Son of Adela, fourth daughter of William the Conqueror, usurped the throne upon the death of Henry. A civil war was the consequence of the usurpation, which was finally settled by compromise. It was agreed that Stephen should hold the crown during his life, and that it should then descend to the heirs of Matilda. Stephen died the next year, viz: A. D. 1154, and the crown passed into the house of



## The Plantagenets.



### *HENRY II.*

**H**ENRY II, the first Plantagenet who possessed the throne of England, was the son of Matilda, daughter of Henry I, and Geoffrey Plantagenet. He married Matilda or Maud, great-grand-daughter of Edmund Ironside, thus uniting the Saxon with the Norman blood, a circumstance which gave great satisfaction to the English. Henry died A. D. 1189, and was succeeded by his son,

### *RICHARD I.* (The Lion Hearted.)

Richard I, died A. D. 1199, and was succeeded by his brother,

### *JOHN,* (Lackland.)

Upon the death of Richard without heirs, the crown, by the law of descent, belonged to Arthur, Duke of Brittany, who was the son of Geoffrey, an elder broth-



er of John. John died A. D. 1216, and was succeeded by his son,

*HENRY III.*

Henry III, reigned for fifty-six years, died A. D. 1272, and was succeeded by his son,

*EDWARD I.\**

Edward I, died A. D. 1307, and was succeeded by his son,

*EDWARD II.*

Edward II, was murdered, A. D. 1327, and was succeeded by his son,

*EDWARD III.*

Edward III, reigned for fifty years, died A. D. 1377, and was succeeded by his grandson,

*RICHARD II.*

Richard II, was the son of Edward the Black Prince, the eldest son of Edward III. He was deposed A. D. 1399, and murdered, A. D. 1400. He was the last king of the unbroken line of Plantagenets, who had ruled England from the time of Henry II.

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\*The name of Edward has been mentioned several times in connection with the crown of England, prior to the accession of Edward I. These were all of the Saxon race, but Edward the son of Henry III, being the first Edward of the Norman race, is known in history as Edward I

## The House of Lancaster.



UPON the deposition and death of Richard II, without heirs, the crown belonged to the Lionel branch of the family of Edward III, whose children were the heirs of the oldest male blood of that monarch. But Henry, Duke of Lancaster, son of John of Gaunt, fourth son of Edward III, usurped the throne, to the exclusion of the heirs of Lionel.

### *HENRY IV, (Surnamed Bolenbroke.)*

Henry IV, the first king of the House of Lancaster, ascended the throne A. D. 1399, died 1413, and was succeeded by his son,

### *HENRY V, (Prince Hal.)*

Henry V, died A. D. 1422, and was succeeded by his son,

### *HENRY VI.*

Henry VI, reigned until he was dethroned, A. D. 1461, by Edward, Earl of Marche. He was the last king of the House of Lancaster.

## The House of York.



As has been observed, the heirs of the Lionel branch of the family of Edward III, from whom the monarchs of the House of York were descended, were the nearest of royal blood, after the death of Richard II. But the male heirs of this family having died, and Henry IV being a powerful and popular sovereign, the nation recognized his claim, and he was acknowledged king. Little was said of the rival claim of the House of York, during the reigns of Henry IV. and V., but during the reign of Henry VI., Richard, Duke of York, set up the claim of that family to the throne. A. D. 1455, the battle of St. Albans was fought; the first of twelve bloody battles in the contest between the Houses of Lancaster and York, which for thirty years deluged England with blood, and which is known in history as the "War of the Roses."

In the third of those battles, viz., the battle of Wakefield, fought in December, A. D. 1460, the

Duke of York was defeated and slain, when his son, Edward, took up the cause of the house of York, and succeeded in being proclaimed king, A. D. 1461.

### *EDWARD IV.*

Edward IV. was descended from Lionel, Duke of Clarence, third son of Edward III, as follows: Lionel left a daughter, Phillipa, who married Edmund Mortimer, and left a son, Roger Mortimer, who left a daughter, Ann Mortimer, who married Richard, Duke of York, son of Edmund de Langley, fifth son of Edward III. The issue of the marriage of Ann Mortimer with Richard, was *the* Richard, Duke of York, (killed in the battle of Wakefield, A. D. 1460,) and the father of Edward IV. Thus the blood of two branches of the family of Edward III, were united in him. Edward IV. died A. D. 1483, and was succeeded by his son,

### *EDWARD V.*

Edward V. was never crowned. He bore the title of king but two months and twelve days, when he, with his younger brother Richard, was murdered by Richard, Duke of Gloster, their uncle, A. D. 1483.

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*RICHARD III.*

Richard III., brother of Edward IV., was killed in the battle of Bosworth, A. D. 1485. He was the last king of the House of York, and the last of the family of Plantagenet, who had held the throne from the time of Henry II.



## The Tudor Family.



### *HENRY VII.*

**H**ENRY VII. was the first king of the Tudor family. He was son of Edmund Tudor and Margaret Beaufort, grand-daughter of John Beaufort, Earl of Somerset, an illegitimate son of John of Gaunt, fourth son of Edward III. He died, A. D. 1509, and was succeeded by his son,

### *HENRY VIII.*

Henry VIII. died A. D. 1547, and was succeeded by his son,

### *EDWARD VI.*

Edward VI. died, A. D. 1553, and was succeeded by his sister,

### *MARY.*

Mary died, A. D. 1558, and was succeeded by her sister,

### *ELIZABETH.*

Elizabeth, the last sovereign of the Tudor family, died, A. D. 1603.

## The Stuart Family.



### *JAMES I.*


**J**AMES I. succeeded Elizabeth, A. D. 1603, and died A. D. 1625. His mother was Mary, Queen of Scots, the daughter of James V. of Scotland, the son of James IV., of Scotland, who married Margaret Tudor, daughter of Henry VII., of England. His father was Henry Stuart, grand-son of Margaret Tudor, daughter of Henry VII. James I. was succeeded by his son,

### *CHARLES I.*

Charles I. was beheaded A. D. 1649, and then followed the

## Commonwealth of England.



FTER the death of Charles I., the government was administered by Oliver Cromwell and his son Richard, under the title of *Protector*, until monarchy was restored, A. D. 1660, in the person of,

### *CHARLES II.*

Charles II. died A. D. 1685, and was succeeded by his brother,

### *JAMES II.*

James II. abdicated the throne A. D. 1688, and was succeeded by

### *WILLIAM AND MARY.*

Mary died, A. D. 1694, and William reigned alone, as William III., till his death, A. D. 1702. Mary was the daughter of James II., and William was



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grandson of Charles I., by his daughter Mary, who married William, Prince of Orange.

*ANNE.*

Anne, second daughter of James II., succeeded William III., and died, A. D. 1714. She married Prince George of Denmark, and left no issue. She was the last Sovereign of the Stuart family.



## The House of Brunswick.



### GEORGE I.

GEORGE I. was the son of Sophia, daughter of Elizabeth, eldest daughter of James I. He died A. D. 1727, and was succeeded by his son,

### GEORGE II.

George II. died A. D. 1760, and was succeeded by his grandson,

### GEORGE III.

George III. reigned sixty years, died A. D. 1820, and was succeeded by his son,

### GEORGE IV.

George IV. died, A. D. 1830, and was succeeded by his brother,

### WILLIAM IV.

William IV. died, A. D. 1837, and was succeeded by

### VICTORIA.

Victoria, the present sovereign of England, was daughter of Edward, Duke of Kent, fourth son of George III. She ascended the throne A. D. 1837, and A. D. 1840, was married to Albert Charles Augustus Emanuel, Prince of Saxe, and Duke of Saxe-Coburg. Prince Albert died, A. D. 1862.



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